I Claim:

1   1.   An AM half-tone printing process wherein shades of gray are represented by

2   dot size, comprising

3   representing at least some shades of gray by groups of equally spaced dots in

4   each of which some dots are smaller than at least one other dot in the group.

1   2.   An AM half-tone printing process according to claim 1, wherein the average

2   size of the dots in a single group corresponds to a predetermined dot value for the group as a

3   whole.

1   3.   An AM half-tone printing process according to claim 2, wherein there is a

2   predetermined minimum size for said at least one other dot.

1   4.   An AM half-tone printing process according to claim 2, wherein each group

2   includes n dots, and gray values below a predetermined transition value are represented by

3   reducing the sizes of n-1 of said dots to values which are less than the value of the remaining

4   dot.

1   5.   An AM half-tone printing process according to claim 3, wherein each group

2   includes n-1 dots, and gray values below a predetermined transition value are represented by

3   reducing the sizes of n-1 of said dots to values which are less than the value of the remaining

4   dot.

1   6.   An AM half-tone printing process according to claim 5, wherein n=4.

1   7.   An AM half-tone printing process according the claim 4, wherein said

2 minimum size and transition value are variable.

1   8.   An AM half-tone printing process according the claim 7, wherein the printing

2 process is a flexographic printing process.

1   9.   An AM half-tone printing process according to claim 5, wherein a desktop

2 publishing computer couples digital information to a raster image processor to form individual

3 half-tone separations, said minimum size and transition value being determined by said

4 desktop publishing computer.